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BIG FOUR AGAIN AGREE IN PRINCIPLE

Necessity Of Forming A Central German Govt.

London, Nov. 27.—The United States, Britain and Russia agreed on Thursday night on the necessity of quickly forming a central government for all Germany. Russia balked at creating a commission to study Germany's final boundaries.

Soviet Foreign Minister V. M. Molotov said that so far as the Soviet Union was concerned the east German territory up to the Oder and Neisse rivers was ceded to Poland and required no further study. Britain and the United States protested. The Potsdam agreement placed this territory under Polish administration "pending final determination of Poland's western frontier."

Foreign Ministers of the US, Russia and Britain reached a tentative agreement that a German government should participate in any peace conference and ratify any treaty. The Ministers discussed topic after topic in general terms, overriding protests of France's Georges Bidault that the agenda was not being followed.

Despite wide areas of "agreement," it was reported nothing sufficiently new was developed to break any of the deadlocks on main issues. "Blocking" drafting of the German and Austrian treaties.

French sources said Foreign Minister Georges Bidault would accept at today's meeting of the Big Four, the eastern frontiers of Germany as outlined at Potsdam. The Potsdam decision was an agreement that "pending final determination of Poland's western frontier," large slices of eastern Germany should be placed "under the administration of the Polish state."

CONFLICT OF VIEWS

In effect, Germany's eastern frontier was pulled in to the Oder and Neisse rivers. Parts of East Prussia were placed "under the administration" of Poland and parts "under the administration" of Russia, including the fortress port of Königsberg.

Such a position by France in support of Russia would be in opposition to views of Secretary of State George Marshall and British Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin, who have insisted that the de facto transfer of German territory to Poland should await discussion and "confirmation" by an Allied peace conference. These sources implied France did not necessarily support the principles of the changes, but was looking at the situation "realistically."—Associated Press.

UNIFIED GERMANY ISSUE

London, Nov. 27.—M. Vyacheslav Molotov, the Soviet Foreign Minister, was expected to demand the

formation soon of an All-German Government in his campaign for a decision in the German peace conference when the Council of Foreign Ministers met again today.

The meeting, the first at which the Ministers could get away from the question of their own agenda, had before it the vital issue left undecided at the Moscow Conference last spring of the method by which the German peace treaty is to be negotiated and who is to be invited to the peace conference.

Two differences have split the Ministers since the matter was raised at Moscow, the first whether Albania should be permitted to attend the peace conference as Russia wishes and, second, whether the British Dominions and the smaller powers should be associated with the drafting of the treaty, as Britain and the United States wish.

M. Molotov has now added a third and more vital issue—the formation of a Central German Government which would be required to accept a peace treaty before it could come into effect.

The Western powers have thus been brought face to face with the central issue of the present conference—whether Germany should be partitioned or reunited.

M. Molotov made the Soviet Union the champion of German unity. "The Foreign Ministers' deputies," ordered yesterday to discuss the Austrian problem and report back by next Tuesday, today got down to the central issue of German assets in Austria. They heard details of the French compromise proposal to split the assets into two cate-

gories—the transfer of funds to meet the Russian claims and cash reparation payments.

BIDAULT'S STATEMENT

The French Foreign Minister, M. Georges Bidault, today read a statement to the Council on Germany. He said that the definition of Germany's frontiers must precede a discussion of the German peace treaty. It was useless, he said, to discuss a treaty without knowing precisely the area of the country being talked about.

M. Bidault argued that two main decisions were needed:

- 1.—To put a stop to the transfer of population into Germany, and
- 2.—To secure the security of Germany's neighbours and create favourable conditions for their economic recovery.

Turning to the Saar, M. Bidault said that France's motives in taking steps to incorporate Saar territory into the French economic sphere were calculated to meet the wishes of the local population.

He recalled the recent vote in favour of detachment from Germany and economic union with France, and urged that the developments in the Saar should be a point of economic agreement between the four powers.

He gave notice that he would speak at a later meeting on the question of the Ruhr and the Rhineland since these were bound up with questions of security.

MINOR ADJUSTMENTS

M. Bidault asked that the minor adjustments of the Franco-German frontier asked for by the French delegation in Moscow should be discussed at the present session.

"No answer from the great powers to the frontier claims of the Benelux countries and Czechoslovakia has yet been given by the Council of Foreign Ministers," M. Bidault reminded his colleagues.

He regarded the Belgian and Czechoslovak claims as "frontier rectifications designed to straighten out the borders between these countries and Germany."

"The claims of Holland and Luxembourg are in a different category," he said. "They are mainly based on hardships suffered at the hands of Germany during the war." M. Bidault urged an early decision on all these problems.

M. Bidault said that the French Government had already pointed out the dangers of the present density of population in post-war Germany, which ranged from 145 to 185 per square kilometre, and if prisoners of war due to return to Germany were included, would reach the figure of 200 per square kilometre.

He proposed that the new population should be systematically evacuated. They were displaced persons and should, therefore, not be finally settled in Germany.

DP MIGRATION

Dealing in minor repercussions of displaced persons on the economic and political situation, M. Bidault asked that study should be given to the problem of migration from Germany as a whole.

France, he said, had given a lead in this matter by organizing a settlement on French territory of displaced persons and by a system of allowing ex-German prisoners of war to stay on as voluntary workers in France. One hundred and thirty thousand ex-prisoners of war had volunteered under this scheme.

A systematic scheme for the relief of population density in Germany would be useful, not only to the parties concerned, but also to Germany herself.

(Continued On Page 4)

Kwangtung's Gov. Here



Dr. T. V. Soong, Governor of Kwangtung, with H.E. the Governor, Sir Alexander Grantham, photographed at Queen's Pier yesterday upon the arrival of Dr Soong who is paying a brief official visit to the Colony.—Francis Wu.

Fate Of The Haggis Is In The Balance

New York, Nov. 27.—The fate of several pounds of haggis, reported to have come to an ignominious end in an incinerator at New York's La Guardia airport because officials considered it might spread foot and mouth disease, hung in the balance today after doubts were raised as to whether it had, in fact, been destroyed.

ZBW & ZEK To Go On Air At 6 p.m.

It was announced this morning that the hours of transmission from stations ZBW and ZEK are to be extended.

Starting on Sunday next, both stations will open their evening programmes at 6 o'clock, instead of 6:30 as at present.

The new hours of transmission will apply to every day of the week, and is a partial response to listeners' requests for longer hours of broadcasting by the Hongkong stations.

Two Ships On Fire In Dock

Liverpool, Nov. 27.—Two ship fires brought most of Liverpool's firefighting equipment to the docks today.

Coal bunkers with 6,000 tons of coal burned in the 9,142-ton Port Melbourne and the blaze spread to the cargo hold with 2,000 cases of shell eggs and four.

"Many of the eggs have been roasted and some damped by water and steam, but they will be all right if they are eaten soon," a food inspector said.

Within a few hours, fire broke out in the 7,140-ton cargo vessel Sibley Party and a quantity of lumber burned in the hold. The Sibley Party was scheduled to have sailed for Canada last night.—United Press.

ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT FAILS

Bordeaux, Nov. 27.—General Raoul Montrency, French Air Corps Commander for this area, was wounded today in an attempt on his life by an unnamed assassin. The military authorities announced. His condition was not serious.

Police and Army officials refused details of the assassination attempt. The General was taken to Robert Pique Hospital, where his condition was reported as "satisfactory."

The attacker, fleeing the scene, was chased and caught by two officers after he had fired two wild shots at them.—United Press.

6,000,000 Workers To Decide Whether Or Not To Strike

Paris, Nov. 27.—Six million French workers were tonight telling their unions whether or not they favoured joining the strike which is slowly strangling the economic life of the country.

Even while they decided, the new Premier, M. Robert Schuman, was fighting for a vote of confidence in the National Assembly. Many deputies wanted to speak in the debate on the Government's policy and it was doubtful whether a vote would be taken tonight.

The general strike call was not expected to be made by the General Confederation of Labour until decisions from all the 19 non-striking unions were known. Eighteen of the striking unions control more than 2,500,000 workers.

The French Communist Party proclaimed its solidarity with the strikers today, and at the party's political bureau meeting, the Government's terms for a settlement were described as "an insult to the misery of the workers."

A new threat to Paris' food supplies developed when road haulage men of the Central Food Market decided to join the strike.

FISHING FLEET TIED UP

The whole fishing fleet of Caen, after unloading its catch today, was tied up, the seamen and dockers refusing to put the boats to sea again. It is the height of the herring season.

The National Cartel of Public Services, grouping 11 national unions with more than 2,000,000 members tonight voted against an immediate strike. The voting was six unions to four, with one abstention—that of the National Police Union.

This development in France's 2,000,000 strong strike wave followed tonight's decision by the 18 leading unions officially on strike to form a National Committee for co-ordinating action throughout the country.

Paris barbers tonight, through their union, offered to cut the hair of any striker in the Paris region free of charge.

The move of the National Cartel of Public Services followed last night's rejection by the CGT of the Government's terms, which failed to meet the strikers' demand for an increase in the minimum wages from 8,000 francs to 10,800 francs.

The Christian Federation of Trade Unions said that it would accept the terms with the reservation that the proposed measures be applied with delay and be amplified with the "improved food supply and lower prices." It urged that strikers return to work.

ALMOST 100 PER CENT

The strike of railway workers, miners, metal workers, dockers, builders, and merchant seamen was almost 100 per cent.

A statement issued from the Hotel Matignon, France's No. 10, Downing Street, this afternoon, said that the Government intended "to respect and protect the rights provided and guaranteed by the constitution and the law."

"It is, in particular, firmly decided to protect the freedom to work," the statement added.

All north-bound rail traffic out of Paris was at a standstill as workers in the shunting yards and sidings refused to supply locomotives or coaches to make up trains.

Limited services were available for travellers to Eastern Europe, but the local train services were reduced by almost 90 per cent, according to reliable estimates.

The Paris main post office, the storm centre of Communist attempts to spread the postal strike and anti-Communist attempts to stop it, reopened for restricted business today.

The telephone service was normal, but telegrams were interrupted. Mails were being carried by troops, who also assisted with the distribution of milk and newspapers.

SHANGHAI RIVER PILOTS SUSPENDED

Shanghai, Nov. 27.—Shanghai, one of the world's largest ports, was crippled today by the suspension of the licences of 22 harbour pilots for what Inspector General of Customs L. K. Little described as "intimidation and exorbitant pay increase demands." The pilots make nearly US\$1,000.

Little, an American, said the pilots notified Marine Commissioner Captain Fred Sabat they would refuse to work unless granted substantial pay boosts, for which they have been negotiating for the past week. Sabat, acting on orders from Little, warned that unless they appeared for work by noon their licences would be suspended. None showed up. The pilots include Americans, Norwegians, Britons, Russians and Chinese.

—Associated Press.

EXECUTIONER STRIKES

M. Desfourneaux, France's official executioner, today joined the current strike wave, refusing to guillotine eight condemned men.

He demanded the salary of a Government chief of Bureau and a bonus for every head covered by his guillotine. It was learned.

In the Assembly tonight, M. Robert Schuman, the Premier, stated that the Government's use of force "will only be our last resource" in dealing with the present strikes crisis.

"By all means at our disposal, we shall ensure the running of the services that are indispensable to the life of the nation. We shall punish all acts of sabotage. We shall act by persuasion—by authority afterward," he declared.

He was seeking a vote of confidence for his five-day old Government.

Holding out the prospect of further negotiations with the trade unions, M. Schuman said that the decision, published yesterday, to pay all workers a cost of living allowance of 1,500 francs per month was only part of the Government's programme and that other measures, in regard to the workers position, would follow.

The strikers were making the habitual method of putting forward claims, he added. Any country which continued along these lines would fall in anarchy. A government which allows this to happen is not worthy of the name.

CALM-OPENING

Tonight's session of the National Assembly opened calmly and without interruption.

In the early stages of the debate, neither the Government nor Opposition speakers made any reference to the strike situation.

The Government will do everything possible in favour of the workers M. Schuman declared, but certain people want to exploit the insurrection. He wished to give a warning to these forerunners of trouble.

The Government is resolved to maintain public order. The Government will oppose any terrorist attempts.

"We shall encourage workers to resist orders to revolt." It was in this sense that the Government is asking the Assembly for its vote, he ended.

The Assembly then adjourned until 9:30 p.m.—GMT.

The Premier's speech received a lukewarm reception in the Assembly, it being felt that the promises of firmness were too vague.

The latest news on the strike situation tonight was that the serious food situation has spread to other big towns.

Reports from the northern mining areas indicated that the local authorities were prepared for serious trouble.

The French Football Federation has decided that all matches scratched owing to the strike, would be played later at dates to be set by the Federation.

The French Rugby Union decided to delay any decision until Friday in the hope that the strike might have ended by then.—Reuter.

STRIKES SUPPORTED

Bordeaux, Nov. 27.—American crew members of the Liberty ship Halton Carey, strike-bound in harbour here, declared their solidarity today with the Communist-led French maritime strike.

In a resolution made public by the Bordeaux Central Strike Committee, American sailor members of the Congress of Industrial Organizations Maritime Union said, "American workers are with the French people, fighting against Taff-Hartley methods on a national and international plane and against constant rise of prices. We equally support you in your courageous fight against the Imperialist Marshall Plan for we believe each nation has a right to its own conception."—United Press.

EDITORIAL

Development & Welfare

LAST January Government, in a long statement glowing with satisfaction, informed an interested public that as long ago as July, 1946, a special Committee had been set up in Hongkong to examine development and welfare schemes which would qualify for financial assistance under the Colonial Government's Colonial Development and Welfare Act of 1945. The committee's terms of reference were: "To examine and make recommendations to Government in respect of the draft schemes which have been put forward by Heads of Departments in connection with the allocation to this Colony of the sum of £1,000,000, under the provisions of the Colonial Development and Welfare Act, 1945; to prepare for the consideration of Government a plan covering all the objects of development and welfare expenditure in this Colony during the next ten years."

The preparation of this plan is to be carried out in accordance with the instructions of the Secretary of State for the Colonies as conveyed in his circular despatch of November 12, 1945, on the subject of the Colonial Development and Welfare Act. It is necessary to recall that in this despatch the Colonial Secretary emphasised the importance of the fact that the interest of the inhabitants should be aroused in connection with any proposed schemes, their opinion consulted and their co-operation secured wherever possible. The Hongkong Government sought to satisfy this condition by appointing firstly a com-

mittee which included public representatives and secondly by the creation of sub-committees which included a number of co-opted members with special knowledge or qualifications. It will readily be conceded that the task placed upon these planners is onerous; that a 10-year development and welfare plan for Hongkong cannot be prepared in a day. On the other hand, the committees have been at work for 16 months, and it should now be possible for Government to give the public a progress report, and some indication how much longer will be needed to complete the plans. It is obvious that some of the schemes to be put forward will come into the long-term development category; others, conceivably, can be started as soon as approval has been given by the Imperial Government.

This second consideration urges the desirability of completing the Hongkong plans as soon as possible, especially if, for example, it is proposed to provide a public library and reading rooms under the development and welfare scheme. The Secretary of State for the Colonies clearly intends any 10-year plan to be fulfilled within that period or as soon after as is feasible. The sooner, therefore, Hongkong can receive approval for its projects and proceed with them, the more likely is the plan to be fully realised within the prescribed time. The public would certainly welcome official information on how far the Development Committee has progressed in its responsible task.

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Produced by NORMAN KRASNA
Directed by ALFRED L. BRON

It was a quiet affair last time, too

by BERNARD WICKSTEED

THE excitement over the royal wedding set me thinking about the time Queen Victoria got married. History is always more interesting when you can link it up with current affairs.

Princess Elizabeth's great-grandmother was married in London on a cold, foggy, wet Monday in February 107 years ago. The ceremony was not in Westminster Abbey but in the chapel at St James's Palace, since bombed by the Germans.

You might think that all the crowned heads in Europe would be at an affair like that, but apart from the bride there weren't any. The world was at peace then, and England so sure of herself that there wasn't much need for glamorous shows of friendship.

There were also few Tories present. At that time Queen Victoria did not like Tories. She blamed them for cutting Albert's marriage allowance from £50,000 to £30,000 and wouldn't ask them to the wedding.

Albert, as you know, was a German prince, and Victoria's first cousin. At the age of three his nurse told him that if he was a good boy and grew up into a nice man he would marry the Queen of England.

She wasn't entirely right. He certainly married the Queen, but he wasn't always a good boy. Once he filled the pockets of a princess's coat, with soft cheese, and another time he made some stink bombs of sulphuretted hydrogen and dropped them in the pit of his local theatre. The people in the pit didn't get their own back, but the princess did. She put a basket of frogs in his bed.

Victoria first met him when he was 16 and she 17, and she said afterwards that he had a delightful exterior and every quality that could be desired to render her perfectly happy. She probably hadn't heard about the cheese and the stink bombs.

She proposed

THREE years later, when they were both 20, Albert came to England again. After four days of banqueting and dancing she called him to her room and proposed. She had to do it herself, she afterwards told her aunt, because a mere German prince could never have proposed to her, the Queen of England.

They were married at 21, and the Prince, who lived at Gotha in Germany, had quite a business getting to the wedding. They made Messerschmitts at Gotha in the last war and the bombers that raided London in the war before that, but Albert had to travel by coach and packet boat. It took him 12 days. At his farewell party the muslin curtains caught fire, which may be

why he set a fashion by fitting out the windows of Buckingham Palace with the less inflammable Nottingham lace. Women wept in the streets when he left, and his grandmother was carried away fainting. The expedition to England started from a pub in Gotha called the Last Shilling. Two days later the Prince without a fortune heard that Parliament had cut his proposed allowance.

The Channel crossing was terrible. Albert, his father, and his brother were sick all the way over. As they approached Dover they were told that the pinnaces were lined with people waiting to welcome the bridegroom.

The Prince staggered up on deck and, still looking green, bowed to his fiancée's people as graciously as he could in the circumstances.

She met him

WHEN they reached London the party were misdirected, and drove to Buckingham Palace by the back streets instead of along the route where the crowds were waiting.

They arrived at 4.30 in the afternoon, and were met at the door by the Queen. Half an hour later the Prince was naturalised by the Lord Chancellor. No one was wasting any time, because this was Saturday and the wedding was fixed for one o'clock sharp on Monday.

The early hour was an innovation of Queen Victoria's. Before then royal weddings had been solemnised in the evening. The change was made for the benefit of the public, but it probably had the wholehearted approval of Albert, who hated late parties.

It was a well-known fact that since childhood he could not keep awake much after ten. Once at dinner he fell off a chair—fast asleep.

Albert was dressed for the wedding as a British field-marshal.

The Queen wore a white satin gown trimmed with £1,000 worth of Honiton lace. The train was so heavy that it took 12 attendants to carry it.

She said 'obey'

ALTHOUGH it was she who had proposed marriage in the first place, when it came to the ceremony Victoria promised to obey. In the chapel Albert was the more nervous of the two and flustered with his gloves and prayer-book.

Afterwards, when they were driving to Windsor for their three-day honeymoon, the rain stopped and the sun came out, which gave rise to the expression "Queen's weather," still used by vicars and organisers of village fetes for days that start badly and end well.

Next day the Times (eight pages, price 3d.) had a 30,000-word report of the wedding, all under one single column headline.

But, wedding or no wedding, the world went on much the same as usual. In the same issue of the Times were 4,000 words about the Lunacy Commission, a respectable independent of good dress, and full board and lodgings were advertised at 12s. 6d. a week.

BY THE WAY

by Beachcomber

H.M. says old Watercrass, H. Snibbo in short supply. What will my young master rub on his feet when he returns from potting grouse? . . . There he is. . .

Well, Watercrass, not such a dusty bag. Nineteen birds and a parson's hat. Any Snibbo going? . . . Yes, sir, we have one precious lot in the cellar. I was keeping it for Miss Pem's coming-out party. . . Fetch it up, Watercrass. . . Yes, sir, are your feet tired? . . . Feet be blowed, Watercrass. I want a stiff drink. . . Well, well, Snibbo, can be used for anything. Lucky I kept a second bottle for mending the roof of that potting shed.

Mimsie Slopconner

"WE are just good friends," said Mr. T. Cleverley Grampound, Mayor of Sopping Overcote, when interviewed. "I think Miss Slopconner," he added, "the very essence of English womanhood. She is doing a big job." Mimsie, who was resting at the Gravel-diggers Arms after her exertions as Miss Staggered Schedules, said: "It is awfully kind of the mayor. He is so nice. A real gentleman. He asked me to be Queen Beadman in the Sopping Overcote Pageant of Old Britain, but I don't know if I can. I'm Miss Austerity Pudding at the British

Domestic Kitchen Rally next month." (Try the new all-brim tribby with no crown.)

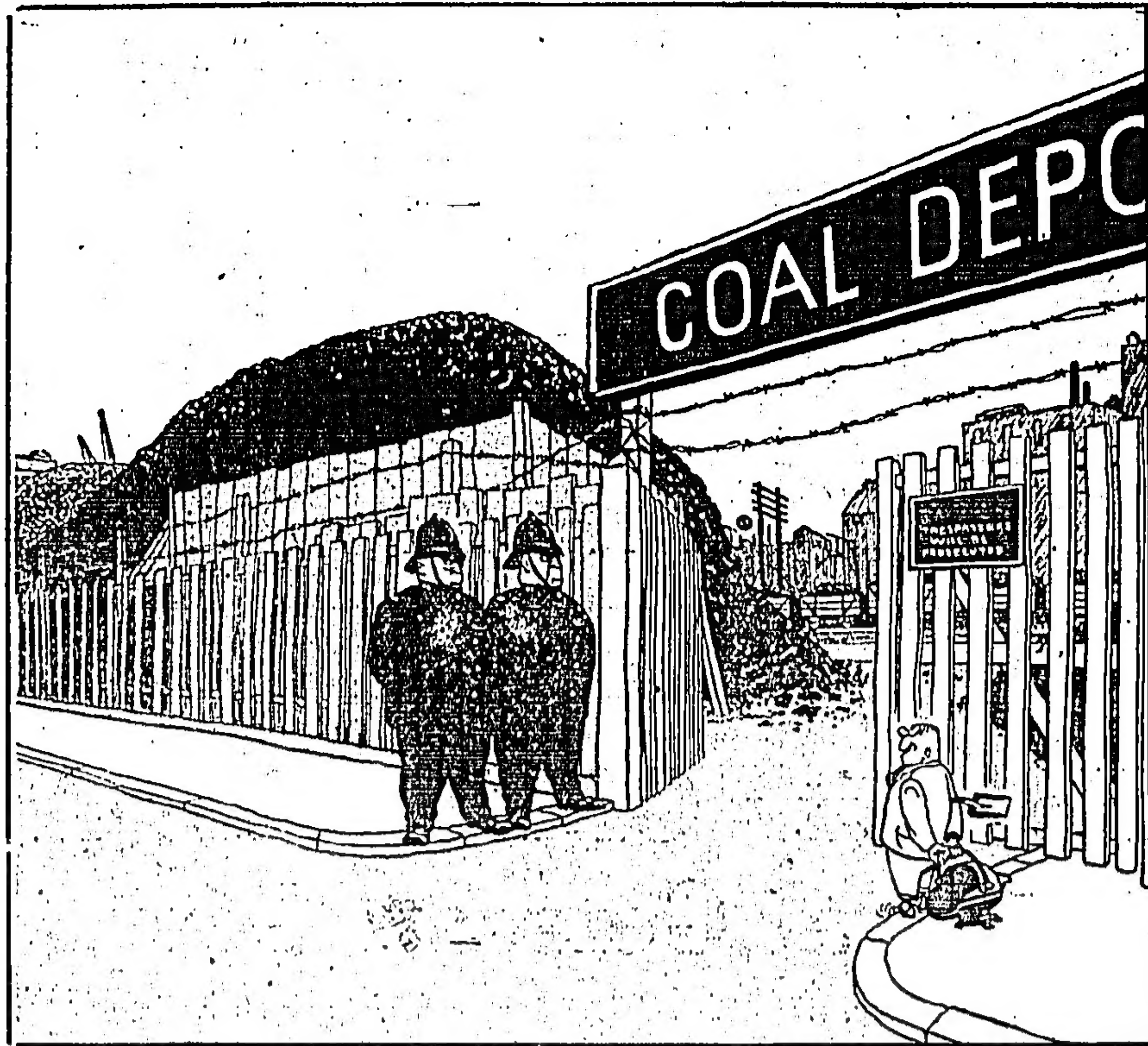
Maison Richelieu

THE felt (purchased from an old man at the Tower end of the Fulham Road) is running out. The hats are getting smaller and smaller. To avoid having to go out of business, Foulencourt is having a dozen or so made out of a bit of linoleum torn up from the scullery floor. He calls them Pompadour cloches. "Are they wearing them in Paris?" asked a tedious creature. "They were down direct from the Rue de la Paix last night," replied the Captain.

"The Vicomtesse de la Sentine de Vice has ordered three by telephone which was ringing. 'Yes, Yes, Maison Richelieu. Ah, Princess. I trust I hear you well. Certainly, a Pompadour cloche. I'll reserve one. There's a rush on them. Goodbye, Princess.' No wonder the tedious creature bought one for £19 3s. 6d."

Marginal note

F the man who flew round the world in 73 hours had put back his watch 74 hours on starting, he would have been back where he started. As it is now known that there is no such thing as time, this would have been a legitimate official record of a much more startling kind.



"Lovely weather we're having lately, aren't we?"

Trevor Evans sums up the qualities of the Chancellor who has gone

The Dalton Touch helped, but—

HUGH DALTON'S resignation will shock his party. I prophesy that he will soon be back in office, not only because of his ability, but because of the support he commands.

Ability and support form one of his distinctive features. They do not always go together among the Socialists.

Dalton has managed to be an "intellectual" who gained the respect and admiration of the bulk of the trade unions.

It has not been easy. Professor Laski never quite succeeded in this. Sir Stafford Cripps has—because his austerity and religious convictions are understood by the deep, Nonconformist traditions of the workers.

But Dalton's secret is his friendliness. And that friendliness proved to be his temporary downfall. He has been like that most of his life. I have known it often during the past 20 years.

Laughs

AT one time his friendliness was misunderstood. The workers thought Dalton was "talking down" to them.

They could not understand how the son of a canon who attended Queen Victoria at Windsor Castle could understand them; or why he should want to—except for his own advantage.

They were suspicious. Humorous stories, alleged to be about him, did not help.

The one most widely told, and which lasted longer than any other, was this:

When Dalton was a small boy, Queen Victoria placed her hand on his head. He yelled. The old Queen winced and murmured: "What a dreadful voice—just like his father's."

It got the laughs. But it also planted the suspicion that here was an intruder from another world. In those days that was a handicap.

Suspicion

HUGH DALTON killed those suspicions finally by his work for

the Socialists in the distressed areas of the early thirties. He went on a tour of all down-and-out districts. He was the head of a commission of three.

There were times when Dalton's imperious manner seemed forbidding to some of the witnesses who appeared before him.

They were invariably men and women who had been without jobs for years. Most of them had lost hope. Their stories "got" Dalton. His subsequent championship of them dispelled any doubts about his genuine concern.

Dalton after formal sessions had ended, would buy "beer" for the ex-miners, ex-shipyard workers, ex-fishers, and ex-textile operatives who dropped in to see him during the evenings of these tours, and he would boom his explanation for his heartening manner earlier in the day.

His resonant voice gained him the nickname of "The Booming Bittern." His whippers could be heard yards away. Some of the workers he talked to were uncomfortable when he called them "Comrade." Dalton wasn't. If there was any "side" it was on their part.

His explanation—that he talked and questioned as he did because of the years he had spent as a lecturer in the London School of Economics—was offered simply. He thought it explained all.

Optimism

DALTON has never been suspected of "selling out" to the other side in politics. True, in the great collapse of 1931, when Ramsay MacDonald formed his coalition, Dalton, as Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, was a comparatively junior Minister.

But he stood firmly by the more prominent leaders who decided to give up office. At the same time, he got very close to those trade union leaders—notably Ernest Bevin and Walter Citrine—who felt they had been ignored by MacDonald and Snowden. He has not lost touch with the trades unions since.

Dalton's stock rose with his war jobs. Yet in the first of these, as Minister of Economic Warfare, he betrayed the same weaknesses that marred his latest job—over-confidence and super-optimism.

They were national assets in 1940 and 1941 when he kept assuring Britain: "Hitler's oil reserves can be measured not in years, but in months."

They have been tragedies for Britain this year, when he failed—until too late—to realise the speed at which the American Loan was dwindling and the disastrous effect of the convertibility clause on this nation's resources.

To the public, his service as President of the Board of Trade is best remembered for the introduction of clothes rationing. He first said that patches were patriotic.

Mastery

IF his judgment was wrong this year, his party—and many outside it—never failed to rejoice at his performances on major parliamentary occasions.

His mastery of his brief, his effective simplification of economic matters, and his energy, with its despatch-box thumping, all proclaimed that he knew where he was.

Of course, he had the advantage of specialising in a subject which only a minority of his hearers understood. That was much of his strength.

It remains so. He is regarded as far too able by the overwhelming majority of his party to be left out of office.

Again, that does not mean that Dalton is universally popular with the Socialists. Not one of the "Big Five" is in that position. The "sucking" of Arthur Greenwood has bruised all who remain at the top.

And now . . .

PRESENT criticism of Dalton within the party is due not so much to any personal weaknesses of his, but to the secrecy of the Cabinet over the steel issue.

It is believed that Dalton was one of the leaders in favour of the postponement of nationalisation. Here again he was nearer the unions than the Socialist extremists; but that does not endear him to the L.F. Wing.

Whatever happens, seeing eye to eye with the unions is not a bad thing for a politician out of office.

Especially one who has dispelled the greatest fear held by Transport House: that food subsidies were to be reduced. The trades unions will not be ungrateful for that.

Dalton's friendliness will pay dividends—as long as this Government is in office.

By Ernie Bushmiller

NANCY The Time, the Place, the Gadget

